



## New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	NJAC	NJ Administrative Code Excerpts	Effective Date:
Title	10	Human Services	
Chapter	121A	Manual Of Requirements For Adoption Agencies	11/3/2008
Subchapter:	5	Services	
Section	5	<b>Preplacement services to the child (N.J.A.C. 10:121A-5.5)</b>	

### §10:121A-5.5 Preplacement services to the child

(a) The agency shall complete a comprehensive study for each child evaluated for adoption. The study shall include:

1. A medical examination of the child at birth or at the time when the agency assumed custody and again within 30 calendar days before placement in an adoptive home to determine the child's health and any factors that may interfere with normal development;
2. In addition to (a)1 above, for a child under two years of age, the agency shall provide the adoptive applicant(s) with information regarding medical examinations, medical testing, medical/surgical treatment and immunizations, if any, within 30 calendar days before placement in an adoptive home.
3. Information to the extent available about the child's birth family to determine hereditary factors or pathology that may affect the child's normal development and potentialities as required on forms developed by the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:3-41.1(b);
4. Information on previous placements, if applicable;
5. Any specialized evaluations for a physically and/or mentally disabled child to help better understand the child's strengths and limitations;
6. The child's involvement in the adoption or documentation of the reason(s) for not involving the child; and
7. A careful evaluation of the advisability, in terms of best interest, and feasibility of placing the child together with full or half-siblings whose permanency goal is also adoption or who may have been placed for adoption previously. The agency shall document, in the case record of the child for whom adoption is currently being planned, any contraindicators

and/or barriers to the co-placement of siblings, regardless of when they became legally free for adoption.

(b) The agency shall provide foster care services, as necessary, to ensure the health and safety of children who are waiting for legal clearance and/or adoptive placement.

1. The agency shall establish written criteria by which foster parent applicants are eligible to apply to the agency to provide foster care for a child.

i. The agency shall ensure that the criteria apply equally to all applicants.

ii. The agency shall make the criteria available to the Office of Licensing, to all prospective foster parent applicants and, upon